

repeating the coating cycle until a selected amount of coating is placed onto the particle.

REMARKS

This is in response to an Office Action mailed on June 12, 2002 in which claims 13-19 and 26-30 were pending. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 13-16, 18 and 26-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Glatt et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,858,552 ("Glatt"), in view of Reynolds, U.S. Pat. No. 3,354,863 and in further view of Luy et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,632,102 ("Luy"). Finally, the Examiner rejected claim 17 over Glatt in view of Reynolds, and in further view of Luy, as applied to claim 13, and further in view of Biehl et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,217,851 ("Biehl"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's analysis of the cited references as they are applied to pending claims 13-19 and 26-30, which Applicant believes are allowable over the cited art.

With respect to the "heated liquid line" element of independent claims 13 and 26, Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for the acknowledgment that "neither" Glatt nor Reynolds "teaches the use of a heated fluid line for maintaining the coating material at a certain temperature." (see p. 4 of the Office Action). However, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have heated the liquid line for the fluidized coating apparatus taught by Glatt et al..... in further view of the teachings of Luy et al....". (See p. 4 of the Office Action).

The Glatt patent does not disclose the use of a heated liquid line to maintain a temperature of a liquid to be sprayed at a selected temperature. The Examiner alleged "the reference further teaches that the spraying liquid may be heated by preventing the liquid from solidifying (column 6, line 33-35)." The Glatt, et al. patent does not disclose that the spraying liquid may be heated by the liquid line to prevent the liquid from solidifying, rather, the Glatt, et al. patent discloses: